

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058091

FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN BEIRUT LONDON MOSCOW TEL AVIV
FROM PARIS 28 MAR 73 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 8696

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, EG

SUBJ: FRANCO- EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

FRENCH PRESS REPORTED MARCH 28 THAT SENIOR EGYPTIAN
OFFICIAL WOULD VISIT PARIS SOON AFTER INSTALLATION OF NEW FRENCH
GOVERNMENT IN EARLY APRIL. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE
EAST AFFAIRS ROUILLON TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 27 THAT TO BEST OF HIS
KNOWLEDGE, NO EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL EXPECTED IN PARIS IN NEAR FUTURE.
DURING HAFIZ ISMAIL' S TOUR OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS IN FEBRUARY,
FRENCH HAD INDICATED WILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE FOR
VISIT TO PARIS, BUT EXPLAINED THAT ELECTION CAMPAIGN MADE IT
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR SENIOR FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO
SEE HIM. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES VISIT DEFERRED. ROUILLON SAID
THAT GOF WOULD, OF COURSE, BE WILLING TO RECEIVE SENIOR EGYPTIAN
OFFICIAL, BUT NO FORMAL INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO ISMAIL OR
ANYONE ELSE AND NO DATES SET. HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT NAY
VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN VERY NEAR FUTURE, AT LEAST UNTIL NEW
FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD SETTLED IN. COMMENTING PERSONALLY,
ROUILLON SAID IT WOULD BE PLEASANT TO HAVE ISMAIL COME, BUT
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VISIT WOULD NOT PARTICULARLY USEFUL, SINCE FRENCH HAVE ACCURATE
AND UP- TO- DATE READING OF EGYPTIAN POSITIONS FROM REGULAR CONTACTS
OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO WITH SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS.
IRWIN UNQUOGE ROGERS

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